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Annual Report

On the Health of the
Borough of Newport,
Isle of Wight,
for the year 1954

BY

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Medical Officer of Health.

PRESENTED TO THE CORPORATION
THROUGH THEIR COMMITTEE.

Newport, I.W.:

YELF BROS., LTD., Printers, Holyrood Street.

COUNTY HALL,
NEWPORT, I.W.

December, 1955.

*To His Worship the Mayor, and to the Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of Newport, Isle of Wight.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Borough of Newport for the year 1954.

The Live Birth Rate has increased from 13·5 to 14·23.

The Crude Death Rate has risen slightly from 15·6 to 16·1.

The Still Birth Rate has fallen from 25·5 to 17·42.

The Infantile Mortality Rate has fallen from 22·5 to 17·73.

Deaths from Cancer dropped from 50 to 41.

The incidence of whooping cough and measles showed an extreme fall; whooping cough cases fell from 101 to 14, while the number of cases of measles fell from 655 to 33. As however these diseases occur in cycles figures as low as this cannot be expected to be maintained. However if parents avail themselves of the facilities provided for the protection of infants against whooping cough, this serious disease will be greatly reduced both in incidence and severity.

So far as notifiable diseases are concerned 1954 is an excellent year with a total incidence recording a fall from 790 to 73.

While recognising the great potential educational value of television it is sad to see the evil effects on children that it produces in those homes where the viewing is not reasonably controlled. In many schools it is possible to pick out the children who watch television far too late. Teachers speak of drowsy inattentive pupils and are concerned at the evil effects uncontrolled viewing is having on the health of the school child. In addition to the lack of necessary sleep the habit of reading is gradually becoming lost. Wise parents have the remedy in their own hands.

While it is true that hygienic conditions of food handling is, on the whole becoming more widespread, there are certain cases where no amount of advice, instructions or warning is of any avail. When lectures and literature on Clean Food Handling are given, those who are in most need of it do not attend. Those food handlers who are aware of the importance of applied cleanliness are the only ones who will co-operate in an attempt to make their already good standards even better. It is at the core of indifferent food handlers that all the efforts of the Public Health Department must be directed.

Clean handling and transport is particularly important in the care of those foods that are to be consumed uncooked. Bread in particular is exposed to contamination.

Problem Families about which much has been written in previous reports are still with us and are the occasion of much anxiety. I must thank the Council for the sympathetic consideration which they have always shown to my recommendations in these cases in respect of rehousing.

As the incidence of infectious diseases falls a new class of diseases is forever on the increase. Perhaps the greatest incidence of disease today is due to psychosomatic causes—stress, in one form or another. Diseases such as coronary thrombosis, asthma, colitis and a host of others are attributed to stress. A field in which the Council has done much to relieve one cause of disease-producing stress is in the provision of houses for those living in overcrowded and unhealthy surroundings.

In a great many cases a striking change is visible in the health of a woman who at last finds a home of her own.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN MILLS,
Medical Officer of Health,

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1954.

Medical Officer of Health—

JOHN MILLS, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (ENG)., L.R.C.P.
(LOND.), D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Meat & Food Inspector—

F. K. AZE, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—

L. C. COOPER, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	15,530
Population (Registrar General's Figures) ...	19,810
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1954) per rate books	5,270
Rateable Value	£150,457
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£595

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	14.23
Comparative factor	1.13
Comparative Birth Rate	16.05
Still Birth rate per 1000 total (live and still births)	17.42
Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	16.1
Comparative factor	0.83
Comparative Death Rate	13.4
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy childbirth :—	
Rate per 1000 total (live and still births)	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—	
All infants per 1000 live births ...	17.73
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	14.8
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	90.9
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	41
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

BIRTHS.

The total number of live births was 282 of which 271 were legitimate and 11 illegitimate. The live birth rate was 14·23 per 1000 living; the birth rate for England and Wales being 15·2.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths was 318 which gives a death rate of 13·4 per 1000 of the estimated resident population, the death rate for England and Wales being 11·3.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality rate was 17·73 per 1000 registered live births ; the rate for England and Wales generally was 25·5.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, ETC.

Inspections under the Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	517
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	277
Drainage Inspections	...	...	...	...	320
Watershed Area	...	...	...	...	38
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	45
Knackers Yard	...	...	...	...	19
Shops Act Premises	...	...	...	...	23
Factories	...	...	...	...	98
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	...	...	201
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	31
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	139
School Kitchens	...	...	...	...	37
Dairies	...	...	...	...	15
Pet Animal Act Premises	...	...	...	...	9
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	1180
					<hr/>
					2,949
					<hr/>
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	230
Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	245
Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	185
Statutory Notices served—					
(a) Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	4
(b) Housing Act	...	...	...	...	—
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	124
Water Samples					
(a) Drinking Water	...	...	...	...	58
(b) Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	4
Ice Cream Samples taken	...	...	...	...	23
Ice Lolly Samples taken	...	...	...	...	20

FOOD**Meat Inspection.****CARCASES INSPECTED AND MEAT CONDEMNED.**

	Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
No. Killed	2258	3571	2794	10663	19,286
No. Inspected	2258	3571	2794	10663	19,286
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	13	20	—	11	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	800	—	101	1919	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	36	—	3·6	18·2	
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	43	4	—	13	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	258	—	—	350	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	13·3	—	—	3·4	
	Tons	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.	
Total meat condemned	26	2	1	7	
Other Foodstuffs	2	19	1	2	
	29	1	2	9	

In addition 2,832 tins of foodstuffs were destroyed.

From July 4th when meat supplies reverted to private enterprise four slaughterhouses were licensed in the Borough—an increase of two. The number of animals inspected during the year increased from 14,750 to approx. 19,250, and the number of visits for meat inspection purposes from 639 to 1,180. These slaughterhouses are required to be kept in clean condition, good structural repair, provided with adequate supplies of hot and cold water, and in all ways to comply with the Council's licensing requirements. It is necessary for much of the meat inspection to be carried out at various times between 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. or sometimes later in order to maintain 100% inspection.

FOOD PREMISES

423 visits were made to food preparation and storage premises of all types. Progress has been made towards cleaner food but the only satisfactory method of obtaining the highest and safest standard of food handling and preparation will be by increased legislation together with adequate education on matters of hygiene. The latter can only begin at home and be continued at school.

One firm was prosecuted for supplying milk unfit for human consumption having supplied a bottle of milk with multiple fragments of glass at the bottom. A fine of £10 was imposed.

ICE CREAM

No of premises registered for manufacture—2.

No. of premises registered for storage and sale—76.

Samples taken	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
23	17	4	2	—
	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	

All unsatisfactory samples are investigated and followed up.

WATER SUPPLY.

The following samples of water were taken for Bacteriological Examination during the year and the results were as follows :—

			No. of samples satisfactory	No. of samples unsatisfactory
Orchard Bores ...	...	...	13	5
Carisbrooke Well ...	...	...	12	NIL
Bowcombe Well ...	...	...	7	NIL
Idlecombe Well ...	...	...	8	NIL
Blacksmiths Arms ...	...	...	1	NIL
Carisbrooke New Well ...	...	...	5	2
Top Barn Rarm ...	...	...	NIL	1
TOTAL ...	...	...	46	8

SWIMMING POOLS.

Bacteriological	Samples.	Unsatisfactory	Date
Little Canada ...	3	1	23.6.1954
Seaclose Pool ...	1	NIL	„
TOTAL ...	4	1	

HOUSING

Public Health Act.

Number of Houses inspected under the Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	196
Number of informal notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Housing Acts.

Total number of houses inspected under the Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to	...	...	...	...	...	...
(a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) the making of demolition or closing orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
The number of notices served requiring the execution of works	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
The number of demolition or closing orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Section 10 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
The number of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act came into force on 30th August, 1954. No application for a certificate of dis-repair had been received by 31st December, 1954. The Act has made an attempt to define reasons for unfitness by specifying certain matters which must be taken into consideration when dealing with questions of unfitness under the principal Act.

The Council was also required to inform the Minister of its slum clearance programme by August, 1955. This was done and a list of houses for closure or demolition decided upon.

KNACKERS YARDS

19 visits were made to the two licensed knackers yards which continue to be maintained in clean condition. Inspections were made in accordance with Circular MF16/54 to ascertain how far, if at all, the premises fell short of the requirements of MF Model Byelaws series II for Sanitary Conditions, Management and keeping of Records for Knackers Yards. Certain Model Byelaw requirements are at present being brought to the notice of the owners for informal action before further consideration is given to adoption by the Council.

DRAINAGE

Repairs and renewals of drainage systems were continued throughout the year. For some time there has been a growing need of assistance to householders with regard to cesspool emptying. Consequently, from 10th December 1954, a service was commenced for a trial period of six months whereby any householder could have his cesspool emptied for a flat rate of £2 on application to the Sanitary Inspector. Circulars were issued to householders concerned and an official notice given in the press. The use of this service by householders is increasing and after the first year's working much useful data will be available.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health.

PART I OF THE ACT.

INSPECTIONS.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occup- iers Pro- secuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	20	20	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	125	78	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Author- ity (excluding out-workers' premises)	47	—	—	—
TOTAL	192	98	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Found	Remed'd	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	No. of Prosecu- tions
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	20	20	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	20	20	—	1	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORKERS.

Nature of work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Lampshades	25	—	—	—	—	—
Tailors	2	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	27	—	—	—	—	—

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACTS, 1944.

Samples of milk were taken during the year from herds whose milk is retailed raw without heat treatment. These samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Winchester, for the presence of live Tubercle Bacilli.

Number of samples taken for T.B. during the	
year 1954 	133
Number of samples found to be positive ...	5
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus	
was isolated 	25

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases, other than Tuberculosis, was 73. There were no notifications of Diphtheria.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

DURING THE YEAR 1954.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	21	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	*20
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—
Other diseases generally notifiable	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—
Polio- Encephalitis ...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	14	1	—
Measles ...	33	2	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—
Malaria ...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—
TOTALS	73	5	20

*This figure may include certain cases of Pneumonia which are not notifiable.

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Food Poisoning	Polio-Encephalitis	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Meningococcal Infection.	Whooping Cough.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Measles	Paratyphoid
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—
2 " " 3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—
3 " " 4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	2	—
4 " " 5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	2	—
5 " " 10	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	21	—
10 " " 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
15 " " 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 " " 35	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 " " 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 " " 65	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	21	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	14	—	33	—

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

CASES.			Vision un- impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Death.
Notified.	Treated.					
	At home	In hospital				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS, 1954.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.					DEATHS.				
	Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0 and under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 " 5	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 " 10	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 " 15	3	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 " 20	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 " 25	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 " 35	7	4	1	—	2	2	1	1	—	—
35 " 45	7	5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 " 55	4	3	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
55 " 65	3	1	2	—	—	2	2	—	—	—
65 and over	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	31*	17	6	4	4	†5	4	1	—	—

*Included in this total are seven patients who have been transferred from the mainland.

†Included in this total is one patient who died from another cause.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES
OCCURRING IN SCHOOLS

Mumps	...	...	9	Influenza and	
Chicken Pox	...	...	68	Influenzal colds	... 686
German Measles	...	...	2		—
Impetigo	...	...	1		766

CAUSES OF DEATH.

<i>Cause.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	1
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	2	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	12
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
Diabetes	1	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	21	30
Coronary disease, angina	20	15
Hypertension with heart disease ...	8	5
Other heart diseases	29	46
Other circulatory diseases	5	1
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	15	5
Bronchitis	6	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	8	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	25
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	—
All other accidents	2	3
Suicide	—	—
Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—
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All causes	163	155
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